

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A compound capable of inhibiting  $\beta$ -secretase wherein the compound is of formula I:

$R^1$ -V-X-Y-Z-A-E-F (SEQ ID NO:93)

(I)

or a variant thereof in which any of V, A, E and F is/are replaced by a conservative substitution,

wherein V, A, E and F are valine, alanine, ~~glutamine~~ glutamic acid and phenylalanine, respectively;

$R^1$  is chosen from hydrogen, acetyl, t-butoxycarbonyl and carbobenzoyl;

X is chosen from methionine, phenylglycine, n-leucine (n-Leu), asparagine, phenylalanine, glycine and valine;

Z is chosen from valine,  $\alpha$ -aminobutyric acid (Abu), phenylglycine (Phg) and alanine; and

Y is statine, ~~acha (cyclohexylmethylstatine)~~ cyclohexylmethylstatine or phenylstatine (Phe-sta) ~~wherein the phenyl group may optionally have mono or di substitution chosen from the group consisting of Cl, F, Br, methyl and methoxy.~~

7. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 6, wherein said  $\beta$ -secretase inhibitor is chosen from the group consisting of  $R^1$ -VMStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO:94); Ac-VPhgStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO:95);  $R^1$ -V n-Leu-Sta-VAEF (SEQ ID NO:96);  $R^1$ -VNStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO:97);  $R^1$ -VFStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO:98); and  $R^1$ -V MPhe-staVAEF (SEQ ID NO:99).

8. (Original) The compound of claim 7, wherein in said  $\beta$ -secretase inhibitor  $R^1$  is H or acetyl.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 8, wherein in said  $\beta$ -secretase inhibitor  $R^1$  is acetyl.

10. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 9, wherein said  $\beta$ -secretase inhibitor is Ac-VMStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO:94).

11-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 6, wherein the phenyl group of phenylstatine has mono or di-substitution chosen from the group consisting of Cl, F, Br, methyl and methoxy.